

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 01752 101329Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 DOTE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01
HA-05 /082 W

-----056088 101333Z /40

P 101223Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4854

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1752

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS ELAB, PINT, AR
SUBJECT RAIL UNION SUSPENDS STRIKE CALL

1. A STRIKE THREATENED BY THE LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS OF ELECTRIC RAIL LINES TO BEGIN EARLY TODAY, MARCH 9, DID NOT TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED. TODAY'S PRESS GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT RAPID INTERVENTION BY THE GOVERNMENT, DECLARING THE PROJECTED STRIKE ILLEGAL AND THREATENING TO ARREST RINGLEADERS, WAS A KEY FACTOR IN THE DECISION OF THE RAILWAY ENGINEERS OF THE "LA FRATERNIDAD" UNION TO SUSPEND THE STRIKE CALL IN FAVOR OF RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NATIONAL RAILWAY ENTERPRISE. THE OSTENSIBLE ISSUE IN DISPUTE IS THAT OF WAGES, WITH THE UNION REPORTEDLY DEMANDING A 100,000 PESO (ABOUT US \$140) MINIMUM MONTHLY WAGE. LURKING IN THE BACKGROUND IS AN EQUALLY EXPLOSIVE ISSUE-- THE PLAN OF THE GOVERNMENT TO LAY OFF A LARGE NUMBER OF RAILROAD EMPLOYEES IN CONNECTION WITH A RATIONALIZATION SCHEME DEvised BY THE GOAS ECONOMIC TEAM AND THE STATE RAILWAY ENTERPRISE.

2. AS WE HAVE REPORTED EARLIER, TRADE UNION SOURCES HAVE BEEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 01752 101329Z

SAYING FOR MONTHS THAT CONDITIONS ARE RIPE FOR A NATIONAL WORK STOPPAGE IN PROTEST AGAINST MARTINEZ DE HOZ' ECONOMIC PLAN. RECENT LAYOFFS IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR--PRINCIPALLY TEXTILES, AUTO MANUFACTURING AND TRACTORS--HAVE INCREASED SPECULATION THAT THERE COULD BE WIDESCALE LABOR TROUBLE SOMETIME BETWEEN MARCH AND THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD SOCCER CUP MATCHES IN JUNE. WHILE "LA FRATERNIDAD" LEADERS MOMENTARILY HAVE OPTED

FOR CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE WAGE
ISSUE, WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A RAILWAY STRIKE
WHICH WOULD IN EFFECT BE A RENEWAL OF THE TRANSPORT SECTOR
STOPPAGES THAT WER TRUNCATED LAST NOVEMBER. ONE OF THE KEY
ELEMENTS IN THE SITUATION WHICH BEARS CLOSE WATCHING IS
WHETHER NAVY COMMANDER ADMIRAL MASSERA GIVES HIS UNOFFICIAL
BLESSING TO THE STRIKE LEADERS IN ORDER TO FURTHER HIS PERSONAL
POLITICAL PLANS. SO FAR, THE VERTICIALIST PERONIST UNIONS WHICH
ARE CLOSEST TO MASSERA HAVE BEEN CIRCUMSPECT ABOUT TAKING
ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE RAILWAY ENGINEERS, PREFERRING TO WAIT
UNTIL THE ENGINEERS CARIFY THEIR PLANS.
CHAPLIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: THREATS, LABOR STRIKES, ROLLING STOCK
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUENOS01752
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780108-0143
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780384/aaaactcx.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3cb5acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3378083
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RAIL UNION SUSPENDS STRIKE CALL
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, ELTN, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3cb5acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014